

Old and obsolete technologies and their recent comeback

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Agenda

- ▶ Short info
 - ▶ IRC
 - ▶ Gopher
 - ▶ MUDs
- ▶ Current usages

IRC: Internet Relay Chat

- ▶ One of the first Internet Messaging systems
- ▶ Created in 1988 in Finland
- ▶ No message permanence
- ▶ Many terms originated from IRC are still widely used

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8:34:07 FunkyStickman Yeah, hundreds.
8:34:34 Killerwump And the IMAP protocol is overengineered [20], I need about 5 messages to read how much unread mail I have
8:34:40 FunkyStickman start off with Floodgap, they host Veronica2 search engine. And they host dozens of sites
8:35:12 FunkyStickman gopher://gopher-floodgap.com
8:35:37 FunkyStickman I would be willing to say there's more gopher sites running now than there were back in '92.
8:36:11 zacher sheshe (-sheshe@fused-107-189-158-128.totalplay.net) wsezdl na #distrotube
8:36:39 SquareItself According to wikipedia, there are just over 300 active servers
8:36:42 SquareItself Mine is included :D
8:36:52 FunkyStickman Back then there was a very fast transition from BBS's to the internet. It happened very quickly
8:36:58 SquareItself that is, 300 indexed by the floodgap team irc
8:37:18 FunkyStickman I'm about to fire mine up as well.
8:37:38 FunkyStickman been working on getting the menus correct, but yeah, I will have one indexed there shortly.
8:37:44 zacher I would like to make a gopher hole, but I don't really know what I would do
8:37:47 zacher remarc (-remarc@w-wifi-stud1.wifi.pw.edu.pl) wsezdl na #distrotube
8:38:07 SquareItself I started out just making myself a gopher start page basically
8:38:22 SquareItself Once I got going, I had plenty of ideas
8:38:23 FunkyStickman Had a blog. Host files. Host links. Any kind of file- graphics, videos, etc. can be linked to and handled by the browser.
8:38:35 SquareItself silentmessengers.org <-
8:38:37 zacher baschdel (-baschdel@151-056-210-188.ip-addr.linuxio.net) wsezdl z IRC (Read error: Connection reset by peer)
8:38:50 SquareItself There isn't half the content there that I could put on there.
8:38:51 zacher baschdel (-baschdel@151-056-210-188.ip-addr.linuxio.net) wsezdl na #distrotube
8:39:06 FunkyStickman I have been blogging for close to 20 years. I'm working on importing the last 10 years of blog posts into my gopher site
8:39:09 SquareItself I'm gonna link more gopher holes here in a minute
8:40:02 zacher I've been working on a text-based adventure game, I might have like a basic exploration thing (without interacting with the environment) as a "game" on gopher
8:40:04 zacher drake (-dc@95-138-59-225.slk.quest.net) wsezdl na #distrotube
8:40:21 zacher I could probably work it out with files and links
8:43:03 FunkyStickman You could, yeah. Like old-school hard coded text adventures
8:43:11 zacher Yeah, exactly
8:43:32 FunkyStickman dooooo eeeeeet
8:43:57 FunkyStickman and if you do one, someone else will see that and go "that's cool as hell, I wanna do one!" and there you go
8:44:31 FunkyStickman welcome to the Old Web
8:44:47 zacher Lol, can I have a gopher hole and nextcloud on the same server though? Cause if I have to acquire another device for it it'll be a while til I get my next paycheck when I'll be
8:44:58 FunkyStickman Yeah, you can. They use different ports.
8:45:09 FunkyStickman It uses port 70 by default
8:45:17 FunkyStickman http is 80
8:45:20 zacher ok, I'll look at setting it up
8:45:20 zacher angelp (-angelp@2601:19b:4400:0fcb:3b9a) wsezdl na #distrotube
8:45:29 FunkyStickman https is what, 773? I can't remember
8:45:30 zacher 660 irc
8:45:44 FunkyStickman something like that
8:45:58 zacher angelp (-angelp@2601:19b:4400:0fcb:3b9a) wsezdl z IRC (Remote host closed the connection)
8:46:06 zacher Or 660 was one of the other services I was trying to put on my server.
8:46:13 FunkyStickman stefmari (-stefmari-public-wifi-wakech.edu) wsezdl z IRC (Ping timeout: 250 seconds)
8:46:21 FunkyStickman I get ports confused with iso bike tire sizes. 630, 662, 485,
8:46:40 FunkyStickman shesheh
8:46:49 zacher Ah. It's 443
8:46:59 zacher Oh ok
8:46:59 FunkyStickman there you go.
8:47:06 FunkyStickman angelp (-angelp@2601:19b:4400:0fcb:3b9a) wsezdl z IRC (Client Quit)
8:47:16 FunkyStickman but gopher is 70. Shouldn't conflict with anything
8:47:24 zacher make sure you open that port on your firewall
8:47:29 FunkyStickman Alright, cool. And it barely takes up any bandwidth
8:47:50 FunkyStickman Right.
8:47:50 FunkyStickman bandwidth is measured in kb - not TB or GB

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Figure 1: A conversation on IRC

Gopher

- ▶ Designed to serve documents over network
- ▶ Created in 1991, alongside HTTP
 - ▶ Licencing fees between 1993 and 2000 prevented widespread adoption
- ▶ A strongly defined hierarchy
- ▶ Doesn't support displaying anything other than text

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(DIR) Floodgap
(DIR) GopherProject
(DIR) Gopherpedia
(DIR) Sdf.org
(DIR) Veronica-2 Search Engine
```

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===== TOOLS USED TO BUILD MY GOPHERHOLE =====
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This gopherhole was built using Ubuntu Server and installing the pygopherd package. I recommend you checkout pygopherd if you are interested in setting up your own gopherhole. It is much, much easier than setting up a LAMP stack and creating a modern website.

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(DIR) Pygopherd Home
(DIR) Quux.Org Mega Server
(DIR) The Gopher Project
```

Figure 2: A gopher page

MUDs: Multi User Dungeons

- ▶ The original multi player games
- ▶ Described game world, player status and more using only text
- ▶ Text commands were used to interact with the game

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[*Daily Blessing*] [213/213hp 197/197mn 548/548mv 0qt 914tnl] > w
Bard Clan Hall (G)
  You have entered a tall stone hall, with a well worn marble floor.
  Stylized instruments are carved into the walls, and stone cherubs float on
  marble columns bearing gilded harps. An amazing variety of figures rush by,
  dressed in bright and colourful cloaks that reflect the sunlight streaming
  in from the slit windows cut deeply into the high walls. To your south is
  a door through which soft music can be heard. To the west, a tall staircase
  can be seen rising to the second floor. Through the opening to the north one
  may catch glimpses of a bubbling orange juice fountain and a plush, magenta
  bench. There is a wooden ladder in one corner, leading to an upstairs room.

  There is a brightly-colored poster here.

  -----
  | . . *** < ] |
  | ---
  | [D] < > [#> [?]
  |               +-+
  | [ > [*] |
  | -----

[ Exits: north east (south) west up ]
  [*] A generic voting booth is here
The statue of Calliope overlooks her visitors with a gentle expression.

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Figure 3: An active MUD